

# International Relation of the Middle East

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INR 3274

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Class Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 1:00-1:50 PM

Office Hours: Wed 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Class Room: GC 287A

## Course Description

Middle Eastern Politics and the issues related to this region have had a tremendous impact on global politics. The main aim of this course is to show why this region is so influential. This course makes students familiar with the countries of the Middle East and some key political events and trends such as: Arab-Israeli relations, oil politics, reform in the Middle East, the war in Iraq, and Iran's nuclear program among other issues.

## Required Texts\*

- 1.(Congressional Quarterly), The Middle East (11th ed.) (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 2007.) ISBN: 9780872893696
- 2.Fawcett, Louise. International Relations of the Middle East (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005). ISBN: 0199269637
3. Nasr, Seyyed Hossein, Islam, Religion, History, and Civilization, 2002. ISBN: 978-0060507145
- 4.WebCT articles: These articles will be posted on WebCT page of this course.

## Grading Policy

**Student Homepage:** Building the student homepage in the WebCT is **6%** of the total grade. Here are some guidelines, post:

- a decent picture of yourself;
- where you are from;
- where you work;
- what academic background you have;
- why you have taken this course and what you expect from it;
- what hobbies you have.

If you need some directions about building your homepage, [click here](#). The deadline for building the homepage is January 16, 2008.

**Class Participation:** **10%** or more of the final grade is for the class participation. Class participation means: active engagement in the class discussions including answering the questions and asking good questions.

**Country Presentation:** Each country of the Middle East will be assigned to a group of students. They should present an overview of that country in class. This country presentation is 10% of the total grade. Appendix A will provide students with further directions in this regard.

The grade for the presentation will be given both by the instructor and another group. In each session a second group is assigned to evaluate the presentation. This group is called the “Evaluating Group”.

The Evaluating Group should submit the typed evaluation form (Students’ can find the evaluation form in the appendix B) to the professor no later than the immediate session after the presentation. The evaluation group must read the section about the country ahead of time and ask questions. It should also evaluate both the individual presenters and their group. In giving evaluation grades, students should consider the following criteria:

1. Evidence of knowledge regarding the textbook;
2. Convincing answers to the questions;
3. Good teamwork.

The evaluation process is 2% of the total grade.

**MESC Lectures:** The Middle East Studies Center (MESC) at FIU will be hosting five lectures during the spring semester. Students can find the list of these lectures in appendix C. Students should participate in at least four of these lectures. In other words, attending in four of these lectures are mandatory. Students must submit a one page summary of each of these lectures (Maximum 350 words) in WebCT. The deadline for submitting each of these summaries is mentioned in WebCT. Each of these summaries is worth 3%. In total, these summaries will account for 12% of the total grade. However if a student submits 5 summaries or asks very good questions during the lectures, s/he will get 15% or more from these lectures.

Students’ reports might be submitted to <http://turnitin.com>

**Two exams:** Each of the exams is worth 30%. In total, these exams will account for 60% of the total grade. The exam will consist of two types of questions:

- a) Essay questions. The essay questions are about the main themes and topics of the class
- b) Multiple choice questions: The multiple choice questions will be about the Middle East countries in the presentations. They will include, type of government, history, major political issues and recent political figures of those countries.

**Extra Credits:** There might be some chances for students to get some extra credit including: map quiz, or writing a reaction papers. Students can find out about these chances in the WebCT page of this course.

### Grading Scales:

A	>= 93,	C	72-75,
A-	90-92,	C-	68-71,
B+	86-89,	D+	65-67,
B	83-85,	D	62-64,
B-	80-82,	D-	60-61,
C+	76-79,	F	< 60

### Class Expectations

\* All the students are required to actively check the WebCT email. WebCT email will be the main means of communication between the instructor and the students. Class topics, requirements and

grading policy (including the number and date of the exams) are subject to modification and change. Any such changes will be announced in the class **AND/OR** via email.

- \* Students should read the course materials **AHEAD** of the class.
- \* Students should follow the lectures very closely.
- \* Students' absences should not exceed more than three sessions. More than three absences will affect students' grade negatively.
- \* Students must be in the class **on time**. The instructor might not allow a student to join the class if a student interrupts the class.
- \* Unless it is pre-arranged with the instructor, students are expected to stay in the class until the end of the class period.
- \* **Students are required to turn off their cellular phones. During the class, laptops and other electronic devices should solely be used for the class purposes.**
- \* Video and/or audio recording of the class is not allowed.
- \* Cheating and Plagiarism Policy: Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable. If caught cheating, the student will immediately receive a zero for the assignment and possibly be subject to further action. Students should be aware of the university policies on plagiarism as published in the student handbook. The Student Code of Standards states: "Plagiarism: The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student, who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including Internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct."

<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>

It is at the discretion of the instructor to determine the severity of academic misconduct and whether formal disciplinary measures need to be taken, which may lead to punishment from the university, up to and including dismissal

## Course Schedule

Monday, January 07	<b>Introduction</b>	
Wednesday, January 09	<b>Islam</b>	Naser: pp 1-37
Friday, January 11	<b>Islam</b>	Naser: pp 37 -74
Monday, January 14	<b>Islam</b>	Naser: pp 74:114
Wednesday, January 16	<b>Islam</b>	Naser: pp 115-152
Friday, January 18	<b>Islam</b>	Naser: pp 153-183
Monday, January 21	<b>MLK (NO Class)</b>	
Wednesday, January 23	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	CQ: 417- 436
Friday, January 25	<b>Emergence of ME</b>	Fawcett: 17- 38
Monday, January 28	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	Movie
Wednesday, January 30	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	Movie
Friday, February 01	<b>Israel</b>	CQ: 279 - 306

Monday, February 04	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	CQ: 33- 52; Fawcett: 217- 240
Wednesday, February 06	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	CQ: 52- 69; Fawcett: 241- 262
Friday, February 08	<b>Palestinian Authority</b>	CQ: 395 - 416
Monday, February 11	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	CQ: 69- 95
Wednesday, February 13	<b>Arab Israel Conflict</b>	Fawcett: 195-214
Friday, February 15	<b>First Exam</b>	
Monday, February 18	<b>Iran</b>	CQ: 235- 260
Wednesday, February 20	<b>Iran</b>	Iran: (WebCT)
Friday, February 22	<b>Jordan</b>	CQ: 307- 324
Monday, February 25	<b>Iran</b>	Iran: (WebCT)
Wednesday, February 27	<b>Iran</b>	Iran Nuclear Issue (WebCT)
Friday, February 29	<b>Iraq</b>	CQ: 261- 278
Monday, March 03	<b>Iraq</b>	Fawcett: 263 -280
Wednesday, March 05	<b>Iraq</b>	Iraq War 2003 (WebCT)
Friday, March 07	<b>Syria</b>	CQ: 437- 457
Monday, March 10	<b>Oil</b>	Fawcett: 79- 104
Wednesday, March 12	<b>Oil</b>	Karl: (WebCT)
Friday, March 14	<b>Persian Gulf states</b>	CQ: 377 - 394
Monday, March 17-21	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Wednesday, March 19	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Friday, March 21	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Monday, March 24	<b>Turkey</b>	CQ: 457- 474
Wednesday, March 26	<b>ISA (NO CLASS)</b>	
Friday, March 28	<b>ISA (NO CLASS)</b>	
Monday, March 31	<b>Terrorism</b>	Movie
Wednesday, April 02	<b>Terrorism</b>	Pape: (WebCT)
Friday, April 04	<b>Lebanon</b>	CQ: 337- 361
Monday, April 07	<b>US Policy in the M.E</b>	CQ: 160- 213 and Fawcett: 283- 306
Wednesday, April 09	<b>US Policy in the M.E</b>	Walt and Mearsheimer (WebCT)
Friday, April 11	<b>Libya</b>	CQ: 361- 376
Monday, April 14	<b>US Policy in the M.E</b>	Dershowitz: (WebCT)
Wednesday, April 16	<b>Yemen</b>	CQ: 475- 486
To be announced	<b>Second Exam</b>	

## Appendix A:

### Country Presentations

Each country will be assigned to a group of students. Each group has 30 minutes for country presentation. The presentation should cover:

1. General information about the country: name, geography, population, description of flag, kind of government (i.e. monarchy, democracy...), the name of the current main leaders, etc.
2. An overview of the history: how ancient the country is; if applicable date of independence, the main political issues (i.e. coup, domestic turmoil, border dispute, reform, etc.) This part should be the main portion of your presentation.
3. Some basic statistics about the economic and human development:
  - a. Economic development:
    - i. The GDP, GDP per capita
    - ii. The main sources of income
    - iii. The main trade partners
  - b. Human development:
    - i. Literacy (total, male and female)
    - ii. Role of the women in the country
    - iii. Percentage of rural and urban populations

The above list is not exclusive and you can add more items to it. Your main source of information is the CQ book. But you can use other authentic sources too. You can find very good sources in MESC website (under the resource section): <http://mesc.fiu.edu>

Your main responsibility is to act like an instructor and teach the students about a country. You may want to use blackboard, overhead, PowerPoint (the equipment can be provided if prior arrangements are made) or use maps.

Evaluation:

- a) Amount, accuracy, and pertinence of content
- b) Clarity of the presentation

A summary of your presentation can be distributed to other students. It will help other students at the time of exam.

**Appendix B:**

**Evaluation Form**

**Date of Presentation:**

**Country:**

**Presenting Group #**

**Evaluating Group #**

<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Grade out of 10*</b>
1	
2	
3	
4	
<b>Overall Evaluation of Group #</b>	

<b>Evaluating Group Members</b>	<b>Signature*</b>
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

\* If a student was absent, please indicate!

This form should be submitted to the professor, no later than the immediate session after both sides have completed their presentations.

## Appendix C:

### MESC Lecture Schedule<sup>1</sup>

#### Lecture 1:

#### **"Thinking Security: A Comparative Analysis of Israeli and Arab Approaches"**

Dr. Efraim Kam,

The Institute for National Security Studies, Israel

Date: Thursday January 28, 2008

Time: 10:30 AM

Venue: GC 243

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#### Lecture 2:

#### **"Israel and Iran: Forever Enemies?"**

Dr. Trita Parsi

National Iranian-American Council

Date: Thursday February 07, 2008

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: GC 243

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#### Lecture 3:

#### **"Modernism, Islamism and Post Islamism"**

Dr. Farhang Rajaee

Carleton University, Canada

Date: Thursday March 06, 2008

Time: 6:30PM

Venue: International Pavilion, MARC

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to change

**Lecture 4:**

**"Terrorism and Sacred Violence"**

Dr. Scott Atran  
University of Michigan  
and National Center For Scientific Research

Date: Thursday March 27, 2008

Time: 6:30PM

Venue: GC 243

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**Lecture 5:**

**"Pakistan in Global Politics: A Critical Assessment"**

Ambassador Ahmad Kamal

Date: Monday April 07, 2008

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Graham Center 243